



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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Madison's 115th Fighter Wing deploys 200 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq

About 200 members of the Madison-based 115th Fighter Wing of the Wisconsin Air National Guard deployed to Iraq today to begin a 50-day mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Madison airmen represent operations, logistics and aircraft maintenance and include F-16 pilots and crew chiefs, intelligence, life support, supply, munitions, avionics, engine, hydraulics and other personnel.

This 115th Fighter Wing deployment is part of a scheduled Aerospace Expeditionary Force package and the mission is to support ground forces in Iraq with close air support or other combat capabilities directed by the combatant commander.

The 200 unit personnel departed from Dane County Regional Airport at 4 p.m. today aboard a chartered commercial airliner. They will join about 150 other 115th Fighter Wing personnel already deployed in the region.

The Wisconsin National Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, about 80 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served on active duty either at home or overseas. Most of these 7,600-plus soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

There are now about 2,880 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen serving on active duty for federal missions and about 2,170 of them are currently deployed overseas.

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